

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

*Media Office  
Democratic Caucus  
John Schorg, Director  
Statehouse, Room 157  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621  
Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**August 3, 2005**

### **KUZMAN NAMED TO COMMITTEE STUDYING LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Bob Kuzman (D-Crown Point) has been selected again to serve on an interim legislative study committee that will place him squarely in the middle of the ongoing debate over property tax reform in Indiana.

Kuzman's reappointment to the Local Government Efficiency and Finance Study Commission was announced recently by legislative leadership in the Indiana House and Senate. In addition, the lawmaker was selected to serve on four other study groups: the Code Revision Commission, the Commission on Courts, the Probate Code Study Commission and the Indiana Public Defender Commission.

"These study committees do not gain the same type of public attention that comes from activities that take place during a legislative session, but their work is just as important," Kuzman noted. "Study committees do most of the research on the major issues that the Legislature faces each session, so they provide an early look at the initiatives that will be on our collective agendas in 2006."

The commission studying local government efficiency and finance was created by the Legislature in 2004. The group's two-year charge calls for an examination of the methods used to fund state government, with an eye toward providing services that provide a more efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

"As was proven again this year, it is imperative that lawmakers stay on top of the problems created by the property tax system in Indiana," Kuzman said. "We cannot keep passing biennial state budgets that continue to place large burdens on local property taxpayers."

"This commission enables us to look at the situation from the perspective of reducing government waste and inefficiency," he continued. "If we can eliminate unnecessary programs and duplication of services, we can find some savings in property taxes for home and business owners."

Other areas of study include local charter governments, sharing services and the ongoing viability of the township form of government.

"My hope is that we will be able to use the study time we have this summer to present the Legislature with a substantive series of reforms that can lead to long-term benefits for the people of Indiana," Kuzman said. "Tax relief for Hoosiers remains one of my legislative priorities, and I intend to use this commission as a means to achieve that goal."

---30---

**This news release can be accessed on the Internet at [www.IN.gov/H19](http://www.IN.gov/H19)**